



Volume 8, Issue 10 - December 6, 2018

This issue includes:

- News & Updates
 - Will Governor Newsom lead California to a sustainable water future? FOR is working on it!
 - Senator Harris introduces bills to protect California's Endangered Wild Places
 - Charitable Giving under the new tax law
- Take Action!
 - SWRCB hearing on 12/12: Attend to support our rivers!
- Get Involved!
 - Thank you to our FOR Volunteers!
 - FOR T-shirts for sale
 - Amazon Smile makes supporting FOR a breeze
- River Currents

News and Updates

Will Governor Newsom lead California to a sustainable water future? FOR is working on it!



Friends of the River (FOR) is working for innovative and creative water solutions that ensure we have the healthy, vibrant rivers that we all envision along with a sufficient water supply. We need the next Governor of California to lead us to this climate resilient and sustainable water future while resisting efforts by the Trump administration and Congress to further degrade our rivers.

To this end, we convened 33 individuals from 21 organizations to launch a collaborative effort to craft water recommendations for the new Governor, Gavin Newsom. Last week we released our final recommendations titled [Aquatic Opportunities: A Water Agenda for California's Next Governor](#). Working with our allies, we produced a set of recommendations that are endorsed by more than 50 environmental, environmental justice, tribal, and fishing organizations. This show of unity gives us a strong foundation to build on.

Your support will help us launch a campaign in January to greatly expand support our agenda. You can give FOR the extra muscle we need by making a [year-end contribution today!](#)

The warming climate is already increasing water scarcity and flood risk and harming rivers and watersheds. We can't afford new dams and diversions that cost billions, destroy rivers

and fail to provide significant water. Our recommendations call for a more refreshing approach by urging Governor Newsom and his administration to:

- Re-evaluate plans for the twin delta tunnels and large dams.
- Set goals and deadlines to increase water efficiency, achieve sustainable groundwater management, and create multi-benefit natural infrastructure.
- Allocate water more rationally, efficiently and equitably.
- Create new standards for protecting waterways and increasing freshwater flows into the San Francisco Bay Estuary.
- Resist the Trump administration.
- Ensure the human right to water—particularly for California’s most disadvantaged.

Read more about our 2019 Priorities on our [website](#).

It’s critical to have this widely-supported agenda, but it will take a much greater effort to make it a priority for Governor Newsom. Over the coming days, weeks and months we will be:

- Enlisting new constituencies and allies ranging from innovative farmers and Silicon Valley technologists to policy experts and local elected officials to broaden our base of support.
- Meeting with key members of the Governor’s team and leaders in the legislature to discuss our agenda.
- Building broad grassroots support by bringing this to Main Street through our organizers in the [River Advocacy Training School \(RATS\)](#).
- Leveraging our proven advocacy work to reach and engage the Newsom administration and other state leaders.
- Supporting river champions for key gubernatorial appointments.

In the New Year we will also be asking for your help to reach out to local businesses, organizations, and individuals that could jump on board. Together, we can build and demonstrate public demand for the water solutions we urgently need.

Make your year-end gift count by giving FOR the extra muscle we need to expand support for our agenda.

[Make a Donation](#)

Senator Harris Introduces Bills To Protect California’s Endangered Wild Places

By Steve Evans

Just days before Congress was scheduled to recess for 2018, Senator Kamala Harris (D-California) introduced **two bills** to protect wild places on public lands in the San Gabriel Mountains and in northwest California.

Senator Harris’ **San Gabriel Mountains, Foothills, and River Protection Act** proposes protection of 31,069 acres of new wilderness and wilderness additions, plus 45.5 miles of wild and scenic rivers in the San Gabriel Mountains National Monument and Angeles National Forest. The bill also expands the existing San Gabriel Mountains National Monument by 109,143 acres to include the Big Tujunga and Pacoima watersheds and much of the San Gabriel front country stretching west and north from Pasadena to Santa Clarita. The Senate bill is a combined version of H.R. 2323 and H.R. 3039 introduced by Rep. Judy Chu (D-Pasadena/Claremont) in 2017.



Senator Harris’ **Northwest California Wilderness, Recreation, and Working Forests**

Act focuses on a huge swath of public lands in Trinity, Del Norte, Humboldt, and Mendocino Counties...

[Click here to read the full article!](#)



Charitable Giving under the new tax law

As tax law changes in 2018, consider Donor Advised Funds and IRA charitable rollovers. Since new tax law means people are less likely to itemize their deductions according to The Charles Schwab Corporation's (SCHW) research arm, more people are seeking alternative tax benefits.

Donor Advised Funds (DAF) have become a popular option for charitable giving. Donors who contribute to a DAF receive an immediate tax deduction, up to 60% of income. This allows you to distribute the funds to charities throughout the year at the time of your choosing or even in subsequent years. Funds are invested to allow you to expand your ability to give through increased returns.

What if you are funding your DAF with stocks and securities held for more than a year? You can make a charitable donation without paying a capital gains tax and receive a 30% deduction.

IRA charitable rollovers are another great giving option for donors aged 70½ or older. Direct asset contributions of up to \$100,000 can be counted towards your required yearly IRA distributions and will not be included in your taxable income. The tax benefit is the same regardless of whether or not you plan to itemize.

For more information, please visit our [website](#) or contact the Friends of the River office at 916-442-3155 ext. 214.

Take Action!

Stand up for rivers at the SWRCB hearing on Dec. 12th

December 12th @ 9:30 am in Sacramento.

Location: [CalEPA Headquarters, Byron Sher Auditorium](#)

The State Water Resources Control Board is scheduled to vote on whether to adopt the proposed changes to the Bay-Delta Water Quality Control Plan update that would require 40% unimpaired flows in the San Joaquin River and its tributaries. The vote was delayed at the request of Governor Brown and Governor-elect Newsom from November 7th to next week.

Please attend to show your support for increased flows in rivers that can improve the health of the Bay-Delta.

SWRCB will listen to comments addressing [Change Sheet #3](#). Limit comments to 5 minutes. [View the agenda](#)—Item #13, page 4.

Get Involved!

Thank you to our FOR volunteers who made 2018 a success!

Your work help connect people to the rivers we work to protect through:

- 16 rafting trips.
- Training 8 new raft guides
- Leading 6 canoe paddles
- 4 days of canoe training
- 4 new ACA certified instructors
- Trained 13 new River Advocates (RATS)
- 8 Neighborhood canvasses
- 890 signatures urging Senator Harris to protect rivers
- 5 FOR events that raise funds, awareness and celebrated Wild and Scenic Rivers
- Building our community and welcoming new volunteers.

Thank you!

FOR T-shirts for sale!

For a limited time only.

\$25 (includes tax and shipping)

Place your order for an FOR T-shirt to be printed in your size. T-shirt order form will be open through January 7th. Orders will be mailed by January 16th.

[Buy shirt](#)



Amazon Smile

This holiday, make a difference while you shop

Shop for holiday gifts and supplies at smile.amazon.com and Amazon donates

You shop. Amazon donates.
[amazonsmile](https://smile.amazon.com)



Did you know your purchases can make a difference? AmazonSmile donates to Friends of the River when you do your holiday shopping at smile.amazon.com. Follow the link and select Friends of the River Foundation as your charity of choice and 0.5% of every purchase will be donated! Its a win-win!

River Currents

By Ron Stork, *Policy Director*

Election musings

Well, we finally had that election. The TV political ads are over, and some believe that we can all ease back and not participate in the saga of American democracy.

Not so fast...

Some answers to the federal government going rogue

As you may recall, the Turlock and Modesto Irrigation Districts have decided to take advantage of the Trumpian era and back the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) off of many of their improved take-out proposed requirements on the Tuolumne River at Don Pedro Reservoir. The districts also backed the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service down from recommending flows for the fishery downstream of Don Pedro Dam — or at least anything different than the District's ideas...



Grand deal-making?

Last month the Governor and Governor elect asked the State Water Resources Control Board to hold off making some decisions on water flows into the Delta. They said that they hoped to have some voluntary agreements hammered out before the Board hearing in the second week of December where the Board was hoping to begin to impose new flow requirements...

Grand deal on the WIIN

Late last week, Governor Brown, Senator Feinstein, and House Majority Leader Kevin McCarthy announced a grand deal on water for the state.

They propose to amend the Water Infrastructure Improvements for the Nation Act of 2016 (WIIN) to increase federal dam funding to a billion dollars for new storage projects and to extend the time the dam proposals have to prove that they are feasible for another seven years...

Deirdre punches back

We at Friends of the River get to work with some remarkable people. When Deirdre des Jardins saw the money apparently being slipped into an end-of-session rider to get a billion federal dollars into the WIIN fund for some speculative dam projects, she was pretty angry. But importantly, she does something about it...

Imitation is the sincerest form of flattery

Last year Friends of the River sponsored a bill in the Legislature (AB 2975, Freeman) that gave the California Natural Resources Secretary the authority to protect the 750 miles of National Wild and Scenic River in California not currently in the state's wild and scenic river system if the Congress or the President try to mess with these rivers...

Tunnels, Tunnels, Tunnels. What is happening?

The retiring Governor has been pretty committed to pushing for building a couple of big tunnels underneath the Delta to deliver Sacramento River flows more directly to the giant Delta export pumps. With just a month left, it's looking increasingly apparent that this will be a matter for the next Governor, although Governor Brown's impact may carry on since he just filled a vacant seat on the State Water Resources Control Board with an engineer from the State Board's staff, Sean McGuire. And the term of the chair of the Board, Felicia Marcus (one of the two hearing officers at the twin tunnel hearings), expires at the end of the year. So there could be some big changes at the Water Board aimed at carrying

forward the Governor's legacy projects....

Westlands Water District goes rouge too

Last week the country's largest irrigation district announced the start of its environmental impact report for its Shasta Dam Raise Project.

Pretty bold move since this project has been illegal for nearly three decades. The state's wild and scenic river statute is pretty clear about this...

Follow-up on arresting the wrong river guy

Back in October I told the story of arresting the wrong fisherman for trespassing, for Francis Coats knows the law better than nearly anyone.

I suspect that the Yolo County District Attorney could see that this case was going to be a loser and has declined to prosecute. In some ways that's too bad, because clarifying the rights of the public to access the waters of the state is one of the jobs of the courts...

Reflections on shy people helping to save rivers

Photos and videos, or showing people why rivers are worth saving: Images and videos can be powerful. And gathering them doesn't require public speaking courage. We are approaching California's rainy season, our time of big water, blue skies, and green canyon sides. This is followed by our wildflower season and cold, clean snowmelt runoff. Good stuff...

Click here to read the December [*River Currents*](#) article by Ron Stork

Thank you for supporting rivers by staying informed. We can't wait to see you at our next event or talk!

Sincerely,
the FOR Staff--Eric, Ron, Brittney, Bob, Toby, and Kellie

[Website](#) [About](#) [Our Work](#) [Get Involved](#) [Donate](#) [Contact](#)

